



BOX AF
REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1752
PATENT
2870-0137P

(Handwritten signature/initials)

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shoji YASUDA Conf.: 5348
Appl. No.: 09/617,433 Group: 1752
Filed: July 14, 2000 Examiner: T. Chea
For: THERMALLY PROCESSED IMAGE FORMING MATERIAL

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

June 7, 2002

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Office Action dated March 13, 2002, remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in this application.

RECEIVED
JUN 12 2002
TC 1700

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102/103

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102/103 as being anticipated by or obvious over EP 0 887 701 (hereinafter referred to as "EP '701"). The examiner further states that

The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product-by-process claim is the same or obvious from a product of prior art, the